

the Central Voice

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HARRISBURG, YORK, LANCASTER:

Midstate celebrates diversity with pride

PHOTOS ON PGS. 12-13



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Dauphin County ranks #3 in state for diversity

By Frank Pizzoli

“Most people don’t realize that Dauphin County is the state’s third most diverse county, ahead of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh,” says Alex Reber, recently elected treasurer of the Pennsylvania State Democratic Party. He is the first-ever, openly-gay person elected an officer and the first within the 18 to 32-year-old age range.

“As elected treasurer, I’m a backroom guy making sure our processes and procedures are within all the rules and regulations, and laws that apply,” Reber explains. He receives no pay as treasurer.

Regarding demographics, Reber reflects what *The Central Voice* reported in 2010 following that year’s census.

At the time, Dr. Gary Gates, UCLA’s Williams Center director told Voice Harrisburg has the fourth highest concentration of same-sex households among cities and boroughs in the state, according to 2010 US Census figures released by UCLA’s William’s Institute.



Alex Reber

For the 2010 census, three hundred and eighteen households reported themselves as same-sex couples which accounts for 15.45 of every 1,000 couples in the capital city.

“Census data have been incredibly important in LGBT-related policy debates,” Gates explained. “They show how same-sex couples

are very often economically and demographically similar to their different-sex counterparts and yet are treated differently under the law.”

For example, *Voice* recently reported that Trump appointee Robert Redfield, CDC head, recently disclosed that the agency will roll back support for the collection of data on the health and well-being of LGBT people through the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

Working from the bottom up to create a more embracing atmosphere – like including the LGBT community in census and other government-collected data - is

Please see **DIVERSITY**, page 8



Left to right: Meg Andrews, Jess Walker, Orla McCann (ball carrier), and Amy Huns play for their local women's rugby club, Thorns.

Founded in 2005, Thorns, a women's rugby team, emphasizes the building of camaraderie on and off the playing field. The team provides a positive environment so every player, regardless of skill level, has the potential to thrive.

“I play rugby because I love the sport,” local Thorns player Megan Greco tells *The Central Voice*.

York and Lancaster Thorns Women is part of the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union which operates under the auspices of USA Rugby.

Becky Stryker says she plays rugby because “it’s a great stress reliever! Even practice without contact leaves me too physically exhausted to be upset with anything else going on in my life.” She’s also “gotten in better shape, because improving for the team is motivation to improve myself.”

Amy Hunsberger says she plays because “rugby is an incredibly fun sport and you meet a lot of awesome people!”

Deanna Heefner, aka Doodle, plays rugby because the sport is “therapeutic” for her. “After struggling for years with my depression and my anxiety, I’ve been able to turn to rugby to release my frustrations,” she explains.

For Nicole Inslee playing rugby was life changing.

Blood, sweat, & tears

Women rugby players train the same as men, play on the same size field for the same amount of time, and get to tackle their opponents

By Frank Pizzoli

“I didn’t play sports growing up or be apart of some sort of team. Once I started playing rugby I knew I belonged,” Inslee says.

Greco says players create bonds on and off the field that make them stronger. In turn, “going to tournaments and traveling” with her team is “the best part of the experience.”

Inslee knows those bonds. “We literally put our blood, sweat, and tears on the pitch, but also the moral values associated with the sport are so meaningful.” She’s “learned a tremendous amount” about herself. “Rugby took me away from the struggles in my life and gave me a new motivation and love for something I didn’t even know existed.”

And now for the question readers want to ask – sexuality?

“Sexuality is not important in team sports because you’re not having sex,” Stryker explains. “You’re coming together as 15 people focused on achieving a common goal. It just doesn’t come up. It’s not relevant.”

Given the nature of the sport, Stryker explains that “forwards especially end up in some up close and personal positions, but everyone is respectful to each other and aware that while incidental contact always happens in a contact sport, it is never

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**“Sexuality is
not important
in team sports
because you’re
not having sex.”**

-Becky Stryker



turn OUT

2018 | #turnOUT

The continued attacks by Donald Trump and Mike Pence towards LGBTQ people, women, people of color, and immigrants has gone uncontested by some members of Congress for far too long. **Enough is enough.**

Human Rights Campaign Pennsylvania has been hard at work to elect pro-equality champions up and down the ballot this year, but we can't do it without you!

Text VOTER to 30644 and sign up to volunteer with HRC Pennsylvania!



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INTERNATIONAL

WORLDWIDE



Although events and celebrations in countries around the world are marking the growing acceptance of people who identify as LGBT, there are other places in the world where acceptance has been slower or has shown no signs of progress at all. Julie Dorf, co-founder and senior adviser of the Council for Global Equality in San Francisco, said the 193 United Nations member states were sharply divided. “In a glass half-full representation, the consensus is definitely one that is slowly bending toward one of equal rights and inclusion of L.G.B.T.Q. people,” she said, “and yet the world is increasingly either in that camp or in a fairly opposite camp — with not a lot in between.” Efforts to decriminalize same-sex activity are expected in coming months in a number of countries, including Botswana, India, Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago.

CZECH REPUBLIC

GOVERNMENT BACKS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



Unlike Poland and Slovakia, the Czech Republic is one of Europe’s most secular societies and religious groups have a relatively weak voice. The Czech government supports a bill making it the first in formerly communist Europe to allow same-sex marriage. The Czech Republic has been allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter registered partnerships since 2006. A group of 46 lawmakers across the floor drafted the marriage bill, arguing that gay couples deserved the option of full marital status.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

COUPLE CHALLENGES MARRIAGE BAN

A same-sex couple has filed a legal challenge to the Cayman Islands ban on gay marriage reports James Whittaker. Chantelle Day, a Caymanian lawyer, and her partner Vickie Bodden Bush, a nurse from the U.K., have filed for review of government’s decision refusing their marriage application. The couple argues that the marriage law must be re-interpreted in light of the Cayman Islands Bill of Rights, which guarantees the right to private and family life, the right to freedom of conscience and the right to non-discrimination.

PHILIPPINES

NOT YET READY FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



The Philippines is not yet ready for same-sex marriage even as the Supreme Court has already begun holding oral arguments for a petition to legalize it in the country. Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said, “There is a right time for these kind of issues. I believe that the Supreme Court and the country are not yet ready for same sex marriage.” Roque commented that same-sex marriage may still be “too revolutionary” for the Philippines.

CANADA

ALBERTA ALLIANCE FILLS COURTROOM

Faith-based schools disagree with ban on telling parents if their children join a Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA). Consequently, dozens of parents and independent faith-based schools are in court trying to get legislation about gay-straight alliances put on hold. A big crowd showed up recently for the first court challenge to an Alberta law barring schools from telling parents if their children join a gay-straight alliance. A Court of Queen’s Bench is hearing an application from faith-based schools and parents to halt the legislation until there’s a ruling on its constitutionality. The opposing parents group calls gay-straight alliances “ideological sexual clubs” that make graphic information on gay sex available. The Alberta government and others have argued that schools shouldn’t inform parents if their children join the peer groups because there is the potential to “out” them to guardians who may not be accepting.

HUNGARY

COURT SIDES WITH TRANS REFUGEE

Hungarian Constitutional Court has ruled that the lack of legislation on legal gender recognition and related name change for foreigners permanently residing in the country is unconstitutional. The decision arose in the context of a complaint by an Iranian refugee. The Iranian trans man arrived to Hungary in the summer of 2015 and asked for asylum. The Hungarian authorities found that he had been persecuted in his home country due to being transgender, and thus recognized him as a refugee. His documents, however, still referred to him as female, so he requested legal gender recognition according to the regular Hungarian procedure. The authorities rejected his request on the ground that Hungary does not have jurisdiction in his case, and he should submit his request in Iran, the country where he had been persecuted. That decision is now reversed.

NATIONAL

OHIO

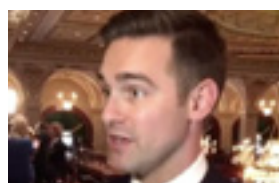
WRESTLERS SUE - CLAIM ABUSE IGNORED



Four former Ohio State University varsity wrestlers sued the school claiming its athletic doctor sexually abused them and others over 20 years and the school failed to stop it. The lawsuit claims the university ignored abusive behavior by the late Dr. Richard Strauss and said coaches and higher-level officials were aware of his abuse. Ohio State said it was aware of the lawsuit and was reviewing the allegations.

ILLINOIS

LEGISLATOR ACCUSED OF CATFISHING MEN



Bil Browning reports that Republican Illinois state representative Nick Sauer has been accused of using nude photos of his ex-girlfriend to con straight men into having cybersex with him. The men thought they were sexting with

the woman in the photos. According to a complaint filed by ex-girlfriend Kate Kelly with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, Sauer created a fake Instagram account “to catfish other men using my privately shared naked photos. Nick would use this account to direct message men with my photos to engage in graphic conversations of a sexual nature. The men believed they were communicating with me and Nick shared private details of my life.” Sauer has resigned.

OTHER NATIONAL HAPPENINGS...

TELEVANGELIST PREDICTS ASSASSINATIONS



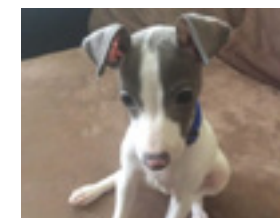
Alex Bollinger reports that televangelist Jim Bakker said “Christian leaders” are going to be killed in the US, presumably to silence them on abortion. Bakker was speaking about the Roe v. Wade movie. “They’re going to begin to kill the Christian leaders in this country. I don’t want to say it — I’ve known it for many, many years — but I knew it would come and I believe God has told me that it’s going to happen very, very soon.” He did not specify who this “They” is.

CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST CLAIMS THE “B” = BESTIALITY



If you think the “B” means “bisexual,” you’d be wrong... according to Religious Right activist Star Parker. She has said it stood for “bestiality” — because that’s really the same thing as being gay, lesbian, or transgender. She added that the “Q” went from Queer to Questioning, therefore any of the letters are subject to change. “They keep pushing out this idea, LGBTQ,” she said. “We did the ‘L’ and the ‘G,’ they legalized marriage for themselves. We doing the ‘T’ now — the trans — and this is a big, big challenge in our society right now. They did the ‘Q’ where they’re changing all the textbooks, even as low as kindergarten, to reflect that you don’t know what you are, you’re questioning. But notice they skipped over the ‘B,’ and there are some that say this ‘B’ is going to bombard us with real vileness in our society if they get what they want because it’s not about bisexuality, it’s about bestiality.”

DOG EAT DOG WORLD



A guy flipped out when a girl said his puppy is gay. Now Twitter is full of gay dogs. Twitter LGBTQ Nation reports that Twitter user *chaselyn* shared some screenshots of a conversation her friend had — and it has taken the social media site to the dogs. Gay dogs, that is. “my friend was talking to this guy and she joked that his dog could be gay and,” *chaselyn* wrote. The dude, Eric, flips out at her friend’s joke. *Eric*: You must be slow. You’re calling my dog gay when you don’t know me and you don’t know him. You’re forcing the fucking idea of him being gay when that was never being spoken about. So stop trying to impose your ideas on my life and my animal. Period. *chaselyn*’s tweet also features a picture of one of the cutest dogs on the planet. The Italian greyhound puppy may not be gay, but it quickly spawned lots of love from users — and their gay dogs.

Rain clouds to rainbows: How Central PA Pride was saved

Publisher's Voice



By Frank Pizzoli

"We were minutes away from canceling this year's festival due to flooding concerns," Brad Martin, president of Central PA Pride Festival told *The Central Voice*.

Flooding along the Susquehanna River, the event's traditional location, threatened the 26th annual festival that draws thousands to the City of Harrisburg.

Martin, the festival's executive leadership, Andrew Campbell, Adam Haggerty, and Nicholas Duncan rose to the occasion like the water on the flooding Susquehanna. They courageously "relocated" the event within 48 hours of opening.

"COURAGE...It's What It's About" was the theme they selected for this year's event. Little did they know how much courage they would need to summon.

They furiously phoned, texted, and emailed. They met with Harrisburg City, Dauphin County, and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Administration officials. In the end, they saved the day.

"We were desperate but didn't want to cancel, yet we knew we couldn't safely host our community and allies," Martin explained, the tension rippling through his voice. "We needed help. Pressure was on to cancel. But I figured just because we can't hold the event along the Susquehanna River doesn't mean we can't hold it somewhere else."

Unable to sleep, he reached out to openly-gay PA State Rep. Brian Sims at 4:30 a.m. on July 26. At 8:10 a.m. Martin's telephone rang and they started the process of saving the day. After Sims early morning call-back, Martin, Campbell, Hagarty, and Duncan were on the job within the hour.

Following protocol, local PA State Rep. Patty Kim eagerly joined in the effort. Gov. Tom Wolf's office moved right in to clear the way for use of Soldiers Grove Park, part of the Capitol Complex.

Deeply grateful themselves and on behalf of the region's LGBT and allied community, the governing board said in an official communication: "We cannot thank Governor Tom Wolf, State Representatives Patty Kim and Brian Sims and the entire Capitol Complex Staff enough for inviting us to hold our 26th Pride Festival in the beautiful Soldiers' Grove Park in the Pennsylvania Capitol Complex."

Rep. Kim told *The Central Voice* in an email "I was proud to support plan B! In response to positive feedback and requests from this year's attendees, I will make

sure the Capitol grounds is an option for future Central PA Pride festivals."

During the rain turned into a rainbow, Martin received an email from World Pride, a 2019 event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. They wanted to acknowledge they thought the 26th Annual Central PA Pride Festival was the first festival held on the grounds of a US state capitol.

Word from a capital complex administrator after the event was that the grounds were left in "immaculate" condition, according to Campbell. Meanwhile, the day after Pride, Martin was at his real job. Pride is one of his volunteer efforts.

Like *Central Voice's* stickers worn by festival goers noted: "These colors don't run." Certainly apropos for this year's event.



the Central Voice

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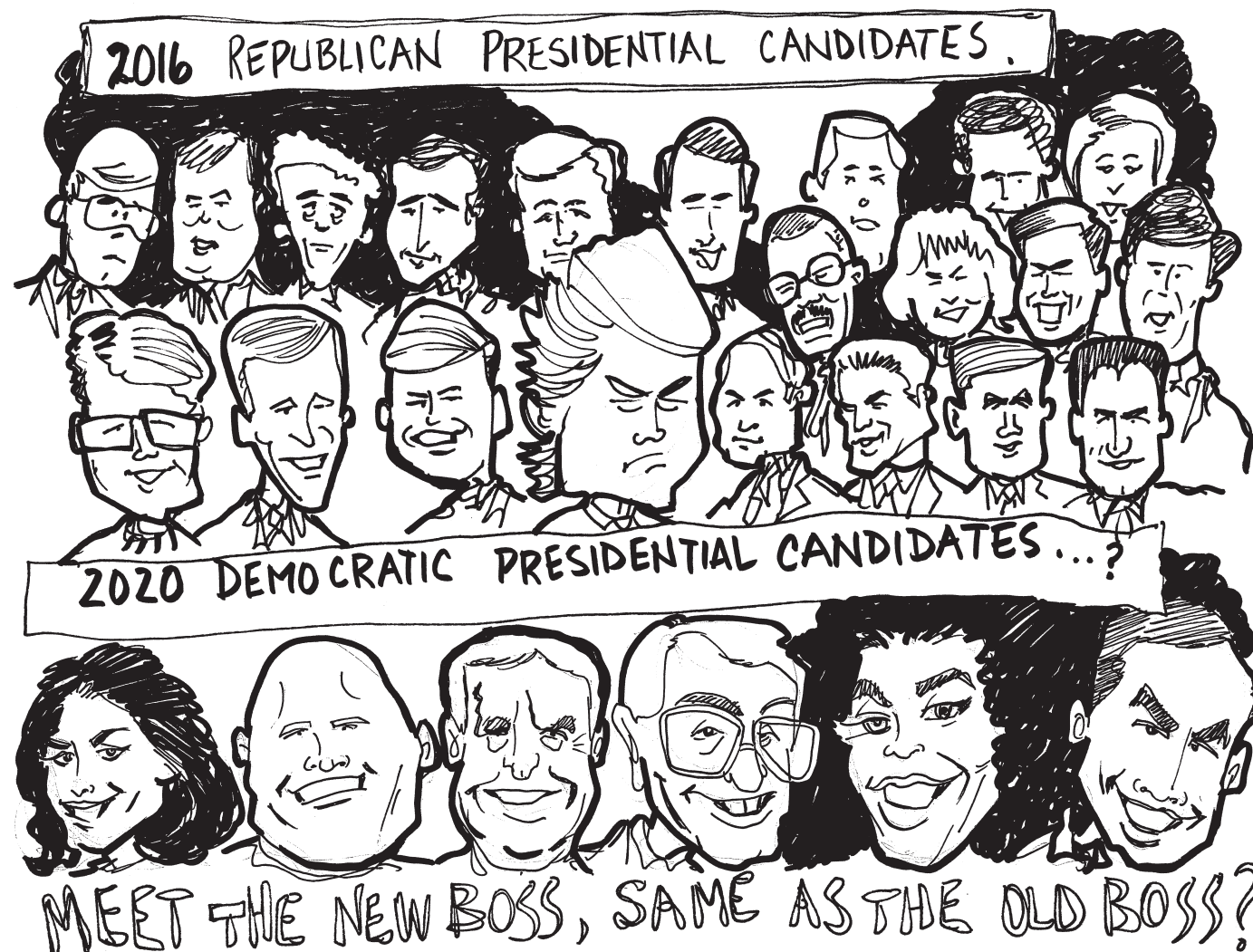
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Proposed law will strip away LGBTQ+ rights



By Amanda L. Arbour

The PA State House recently held a hearing on House Bill 861, which if it were to become law, would preempt workplace-related ordinances in Pennsylvania enacted since January 1, 2015. That may sound innocuous, but this would have a very real impact - overturning fifteen hard-fought LGBTQ+ non-discrimination ordinances across the state.

With a state legislature that has repeatedly failed to pass a comprehensive non-discrimination law for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians, these local ordinances are the only protections we have against discrimination in the Commonwealth. House Bill 861 would remove those existing protections in fifteen different municipalities.

I live in the city of Harrisburg, and am grateful that Harrisburg was the second municipality in the state to pass its nondiscrimination ordinance, with Philadelphia being the first, in 1983. I am proud to serve on the Harrisburg Human Relations Commission, which oversees and enforces our ordinance - and to know that as a resident I have protections and legal recourse if I experience discrimination as an out queer woman.

However, in most of Pennsylvania that is not the case. Without nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people at the state level, organizations

"LGBTQ+ people deserve to be protected from discrimination in Pennsylvania, and House Bill 861 would strip away those rights. ... We deserve to be valued as human beings wherever we live, work and play - and we must keep moving forward to gain more of those rights across Pennsylvania."

and individuals have been taking on this fight at the local level, working to pass nondiscrimination ordinances in their city, town or borough.

In Central Pennsylvania, local leaders and activists have worked hard to secure these protections in Carlisle and in Camp Hill - as well as across the state in places like Wilkes-Barre, Ambler and Mt. Lebanon. These ordinances and many more would be overturned by House Bill 861.

We as LGBTQ+ people deserve to live free from discrimination, and if our state government fails to provide basic protections, then at the very least the protections that we have fought for in our municipalities should be respected and upheld.

If this bill is enacted, LGBTQ+ people in Camp Hill and Carlisle and the rest of these fifteen municipalities will no longer be protected from discrimination in the workplace. Specifically, this means that they can be fired from their jobs, not hired in the first place, paid less or treated poorly in the workplace - simply because of who they are.

While this is the reality statewide, passing this bill would strip away protections for LGBTQ+ people in these municipalities - which is unacceptable. We should be

moving forward and garnering greater protections - not moving backwards.

In addition, this bill would set a dangerous precedent for the state legislature undermining local governments in Pennsylvania. When state legislators stop communities from passing their own laws or overturn existing laws, they silence the voice of the people, rob local democracies of their power, and hurt the communities' health, safety and economic well-being.

House Bill 861 would strip local governments of their authority to make workplace reforms that help workers, consumers and the public. Communities would be forced to wait years for the state government to act when the health and safety of their own residents are at risk right now.

In addition to overturning nondiscrimination ordinances, this bill would overturn local laws on paid sick days, pay equity, sexual harassment, ban the box and more.

As the Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central PA, I regularly hear first-hand the experiences of discrimination that LGBTQ+ people face - especially transgender people. When providing resources, one of the first things that

I do is ask what municipality they are in. I'm always so glad when I can tell someone that they have protections in their municipality, and be able to refer them to the local body that enforces their nondiscrimination ordinance.

However, more often than not their municipality does not have a nondiscrimination ordinance - and while I can provide other resources and supports, I have to tell them that there are no non-discrimination protections available to them. I feel so helpless in those moments, which I know is small compared to how they must feel. Bills like this one would make the work that we do at the LGBT Center harder, with fewer resources to refer people to.

There is also a psychological impact of legislation like this. Even if it doesn't pass, the hearings and the actions around this communicate a message that we are not valued, and that we do not deserve the same basic human rights as any other person; that who we are is something we have to hide if we want to earn a living and support ourselves and our families.

LGBTQ+ people deserve to be protected from discrimination in Pennsylvania, and House Bill 861 would strip away those rights. As long as our state legislature refuses to enact state-wide protections, we deserve to retain our hard-fought rights in these fifteen municipalities. Moreover, we deserve to be valued as human beings wherever we live, work and play - and we must keep moving forward to gain more of those rights across Pennsylvania.

The writer is Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central PA.

Local congressional candidate on LGBT issues



George Scott won the May 15 Primary election as a Democratic candidate for the 10th Congressional District. He will run against incumbent Congressman Scott Perry in the Nov. 6 election.

Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District is newly located in the south-central region of the state. The new tenth district boundaries encompass the cities of Harrisburg and York in the south-central part of the state.

Scott completed a questionnaire by the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats. Below are the questions and Scott's responses.

(1) Why are you seeking an endorsement from the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats?

I am seeking an endorsement from the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats in order to demonstrate to the voters of the 10th District that I am committed to protecting the rights of all people, including the LGBTQ community. During my 20 years of service as an active duty U.S. Army officer, I had the honor of serving alongside a diverse collection of individuals, to include LGBTQ servicemembers. I saw firsthand the strength that diversity brings, especially when all people are treated with dignity and respect. That outlook grew out of an experience I had in the late 1980s, when a fellow officer who I had served with in Korea shared with me that he was gay. He had served with distinction, but told me that many of those who had given him high marks would not have done so had they known his sexual orientation. That discussion opened my eyes to the fear and discrimination that he had experienced as a gay

man. It also led me to examine my own attitudes and behaviors and look for opportunities to treat gay servicemembers with dignity and respect, even though the military's policies called for expulsion of those personnel who revealed their sexual orientation.

(2) Pennsylvania notably does not provide non-discrimination protections for the LGBTQ community. Senate Bill 613 and House Bill 140 have been introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. These bills amend the Human Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation based off of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. These bills prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and Last legislative session, the General Assembly attempted to move these previous versions of these bills by introducing separate bills amending the Pennsylvania

Human Relations Act.

Would you sponsor or sign on as a cosponsor of a bill that would add sex, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act?

Yes. While this question refers specifically to state-level legislation, I believe existing civil rights legislation at the federal level should be interpreted to protect members of the LGBTQ community. In the event that existing legislation needs to be amended at the federal level in order to achieve this effect, I would be proud to sponsor, co-sponsor, and vote in favor of such amendments as a member of Congress.

(3) What steps you would take as an elected official to help ensure passage of non-discrimination legislation?

In Congress, I would sponsor, co-sponsor, and vote in favor of non-dis-

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Title X

Family planning funding threats explained

By Frank Pizzoli

“Threats to family planning are coming from the Federal level.”

-Patricia Fonzi, CEO, Family Health Council of Central PA

If you're not familiar with terms like Title X or gag rule (which is most readers), why should you care if family planning funds are changed, cut, or eliminated?

“The gag rule would set up a two-tiered system of family planning care,” says Patricia Fonzi, CEO, Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP).

If enacted, the gag rule, “would undermine our ability to provide referrals and information about abortion services, posing a threat to the doctor-patient relationship,” says Karen McCraw, Vice President of Advocacy and Development, FHCCP.

What are the current threats to Pennsylvania's funding for family planning?

Right now, there are two clear and present threats to Family Planning funding - a refocus of program priorities and the so-called gag rule, according to Fonzi. All Federal Family Planning funding, known as Title X, is subject to a competitive grant process. The last round ended in May and the focus of the grant requirements presents a threat, Fonzi says.

“In previous competitions, provider experience, areas of need, a wider range of contraceptive options, and science-based methods were prioritized for funding,” Fonzi explains.

In the May round of grant applications, “the word ‘contraception’ was not mentioned once in a 60-page document,” Fonzi points out, “yet the phrase ‘fertility awareness methods’ (meaning natural family planning, the rhythm method or abstinence) was mentioned over 10 times. This reflects the administration's new priority – to fund faith-based crisis pregnancy centers and to limit access to health information.” In other words, she explains, if organizations want Federal funding, they must agree to prioritize non-science-based methods of contraception and not even mention the word abortion, even when information is requested.

The language distinction is important. Organizations such as FHCCP could

lose funding because of the emphasis on what Fonzi calls the inclusion of unqualified, non-medical providers in the family planning network. Although FHCCP includes natural family planning methods in their list of services, Fonzi says most women who ask for services request information on contraceptive methods that include long-acting reversible methods such as IUDs and implants as well as hormonal methods such as pills and injections.

“Grantees will no longer be required to offer the full scope of family planning services, but instead could offer just one service, such as natural family planning,” clarifies Karen McCraw, Vice President of Advocacy and Development, FHCCP. This means, McCraw says, that the clinic you visit may or may not be required to tell you what services they offer or how they are limited by faith-based tenets in what types of “contraception” they offer.

There's more.

In addition, the newly proposed guidance (guidance is language the Federal government publishes to advise potential grantees) mentions what is called the “gag rule”. If enacted, the gag rule, McCraw says, “would undermine our ability to provide referrals and information about abortion services, posing a threat to the covenant of the doctor-patient relationship”.

The proposed guidance drastically alters how family planning and related services are viewed, McCraw says, noting that access to even basic information such as a phone number or a name of a provider who performs abortion would be prohibited. “Imagine if any other type of medical provider were censored regarding what they could talk to their patients about, we would never stand for it,” McCraw says.

Generally, the funding guidelines new focus exclude contraceptive methods other than natural family planning. Coupled with the possible adoption of the gag rule on abortion, as well as other

nuances in the 110-page document “creates a two-tiered system of care where low-income and uninsured women and men who currently rely on Title X for health care would not have access to the same level of service and information as their insured counterparts,” Fonzi says.

Federal vs. State

“Threats to family planning are coming from the Federal level,” Fonzi says. “We're lucky to have the strong support of Governor Wolf.” Although the pressure today comes from Washington, “Pennsylvania's state legislature would love nothing more than to de-fund Planned Parenthood,” Fonzi says.

Fonzi zeroes in on the Trump Administration and its appointees to explain the shift in funding guidelines.

“The Trump Administration and his appointed staff at the Department of Health and Human Services are promoting a religious and cultural agenda. That agenda is being applied to funding of family planning services,” Fonzi says.

The funding shift and the headlines it creates “gives fuel to the 2018 mid-term elections and acts as a lead up to the 2020 general election,” Fonzi calculates. “They want to talk more about restricting access to abortion rather than the original legislative intent of the Title X program. The original objective of Title X is to empower people to plan their families and provide them with the tools they need. Access to family planning care is the best way to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies and abortions.”

“Unfettered access to reproductive health services has allowed women and men to further their education, join the work force, and become empowered to make choices that give them more control over their lives,” McCraw says. “Some people are uncomfortable and threatened by these changes in our society.”

Who's affected by funding cuts?

“Low-income, uninsured or underinsured individuals,” McCraw says. “Those most in need of confidential, low-cost services, and individuals who experience

barriers to care (LGBTQ, adolescents, rural residents), would not have many other options, and they are the vast majority of Title X clients.”

Is there a Perception vs. Reality problem regarding the shift in funding priorities?

“Those seeking to drastically change the system are not using data or science for their arguments,” Fonzi says. McCraw agrees. “The proposed rule makes it sound like the vast majority of women want to use natural family planning and are not receiving instruction in that method,” she says.

“In reality, Title X-funded sites already offer instruction in ‘fertility awareness’ methods to any woman who requests it,” McCraw says. “People choose methods of contraception based on many factors, but mainly because they are effective and medically approved.”

Fonzi says “The methods they want to fund are not nearly as effective as other methods, but they will quote ‘data’ that says otherwise.

What's the bottom line for Fonzi and McCraw who lead an organization serving 24 Pennsylvania counties?

“It's all about the ‘gag rule,’” Fonzi concludes.

If the rule is adopted, the change would mandate the fiscal and physical separation of abortion services and Title X activities. “That separation requirement goes way beyond the current Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act,” McCraw says.

In other words, to cut through the Geek talk – the gag rule “would prohibit a Title X-funded provider, like FHCCP, from doing ‘options counseling’ for women who request it,” McCraw says. The change would “prohibit discussing abortion, giving women who request them referrals for an abortion, or having a flyer available which would have contact information for abortion services”.

“Those with resources - financial, educational, a knowledgeable network would be able to get the full range of reproductive health services, including abortion. Women who lack those resources would not have access to the full range of reproductive health services,” Fonzi concludes.



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Families should be together, safe, and free!

LGBT
Center of
Central PA



By Amanda
Arbour

On June 30, a group of us from the LGBT Center were proud to come together at Harrisburg's Sunken Gardens with hundreds of people who gathered on a sticky Saturday afternoon to march in solidarity with immigrants. Our rallying cry? "Families should be together, safe, and free!"

This rally, and others happening across the country, were in response to the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy of detaining immigrant families, and literally ripping children away from their parents. This cruel family separation sparked an outcry across the country, and was quickly rolled back. Now, the news coverage has died down, and for many of us our lives have gone back to normal.

Yet for parents and children who have already been separated, there is nothing

"...family detention is not something happening only in Texas. Pennsylvania is home to one of three ICE family detention centers in the country - Berks County Detention Center."

ing "normal" about not knowing if or when you will see your family again. For parents and children who are being incarcerated together, there is nothing "normal" about being a family behind bars. For parents and children who have been reunited, there is no going back to "normal" after the trauma they have experienced.

While the Executive Order may have halted the cruel family separation, it does not guarantee reunification for the thousands of children who have already been separated from their parents. It does not provide trauma-informed counseling and support for those who have been reunited. And it does not end the practice of incarcerating entire families together.

In fact, by rolling back from a policy almost universally condemned, it is now normalizing the "lesser of two evils". At least families are together, right, even if they're in jail? Trading family separation for family detention is not the answer. Yes, families belong together - not in a detention center, but in a safe place with access to legal, medical, mental health, and other services.

It's important for us to recognize, too, that family detention is not something happening only in Texas. Pennsylvania is home to one of three ICE family detention

centers in the country - Berks County Detention Center. Just a little over an hour drive from my home in Harrisburg, immigrant families are being incarcerated indefinitely - including children as young as two weeks old. There have been multiple reports of human rights abuses, and the center is currently operating without a license.

The Shut Down Berks Campaign has been working for some time to get this facility shut down. This coalition of over a dozen organizations holds regular rallies at the detention facility and organizes advocacy opportunities calling attention to this ongoing injustice. You can follow their events at www.facebook.com/Shut-Down-Berks-Coalition. They have met with our state government to advocate for an emergency removal order to shut it down. Yet as of this writing, there has been no movement.

As much as we need to be in solidarity with all of the families in Texas whose lives will never be the same, we also need to be in solidarity with all of the families right in our backyard who are being impacted. "Shut Down Berks!" was one of the rallying cries on June 30, and should still be today.

When faced with injustices of this magnitude, it can be easy to feel power-

less. But doing nothing only allows these injustices to continue, and we become complicit in them. Our task then, in seeking to be allies, is to find the tangible, ongoing actions that we can take to support the efforts that are already happening.

First, we need to speak out. This can be sharing information on social media, educating your co-workers or friends, or contacting your elected officials. Using your spheres of influence to make others aware and to urge those in power to take action is critical.

Second, we need to show up. If you are able to be physically present at the rallies at the detention center or the advocacy days at the Capitol, be there - and bring a friend. If you are able to volunteer with some of the local partners doing tangible things to support their organizing efforts, be there.

Third, we need to put our money where our mouth is. Donating financially to the Shut Down Berks Campaign or organizations that are part of this coalition enables this work to continue, and even a small amount can make a big difference.

Families should be together, safe, and free. As queer and trans folks, many of us have experienced loss or separation from family - which should spur us all the more to support immigrant families. Each of our struggles, although unique, are interconnected - and we support justice for all people who are oppressed and marginalized.

DIVERSITY: Dauphin County ranks 3rd from page 1

Reber's recommendation.

"The Democratic Party is a bottom up organization," Reber says. Each polling precinct elects representatives who then elect their leadership at the county and state level.

The state committee values diversity. "We have 370 members by a formula that brings in as much diversity as we can," Reber says. Dauphin County has five members on the state committee under the rules. On the state level, there are "two women, two men, and the next biggest vote getter."

The state Democratic Party's main focus is electing candidates. An example Reber uses is the "Commit to Vote" program in which potential voters are sent a card about one month before an election to remind them of their commitment. Reber explains that voters fill out cards indicating their commitment to vote. The cards are collected while canvassing and at events. "The cards are mailed back to them as a reminder of their commitment to vote in an upcoming election."

For the LGBT voting community "We coordinate with HRC Rising, the Human Rights Campaign national effort that has launched locally, when appropriate and allowed under the rules." HRC rising launched locally (See: Human Rights Campaign on p. 20)

Reber says the state committee also coordinates with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee helping US

House candidates and their counterpart in the US Senate known as the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee.

Dauphin County

How does state versus local add up when it's time for an election?

Dauphin County is trending Democratic Reber says. In election cycles going back a few years, "Democrat candidates have reached the high 48% of the total vote in municipal and countywide elections, within 1,500 voters of winning," Reber says. That's a documented, upward trend," Reber says. In a way, he is reflecting what 28-year Harrisburg Mayor Steve Reed always said - there are Democrats outside the city. The challenge is to find them.

Reber says the key to successfully running a state-level political party is to "coordinate our fund raising and other resources" with county and municipal party organizers and candidates themselves. For example, Reber explains that "a dollar donated to the state party may help them send an organizer to your area or pay for advertising".

Topsy turvey?

Since the 2016 Presidential election, pundits have called into question the future of the Democratic Party on a state and national level. Is the party still relevant?

"Absolutely. Since 2016, we've seen

a surge in volunteers and candidates getting involved," Reber says. He notes there are "more Democratic candidates running for the Pennsylvania state legislature than we have in 20 years". One-hundred and eighty Democrats are running for 203 seats in the Pennsylvania House and 24 are running for 25 seats in the Senate.

An April 2018 Reuters/Ipsos national online poll with 16,000 registered voters ages 18 to 34 shows their support for Democrats over Republicans for Congress slipped by about 9% over the past two years, to 46% overall. What strategies will the state Democratic Party use to appeal to this demographic?

Reber counters "that is one poll not backed up by what we see in Democratic registrations in Pennsylvania". As of July 16, "we have 1,041,524 registered Democrats in the state ages 18 to 34 compared to 640,054 registered Republicans in the same age group," Reber says.

The party is also using "enhanced social media techniques and texting applications to increase our outreach to young people," Reber points out. Party volunteers are also "knocking doors in of the state's 67 counties," he confirms.

Although hard to definitively track, consensus is that 20-25% of cis-gendered, male and female same-sex-oriented voters cast their ballots for President Trump. Voice asked Reber for his perspective on that phenomena.

"I know LGBT voters who supported Donald Trump. He waved a rainbow flag and said he cared about our issues. They believed him," Reber says. "We have seen by his policies and appointees that he cares more about getting support from LGBT opponents".

Can LGBT voters create change through the electoral process? Reber says yes.

In 2004, when he first attended a state-level Democratic Party confab, Reber says "They slipped me a flyer, almost whispering where the party would be, off in a room, out of the way" like the LGBT folks were doing something that should be hidden. In 2018, I'm the elected treasurer. I'd say that's change."

About Alex Reber:

Prior to assuming his treasurer role, Alex Reber, recently elected treasurer of the Pennsylvania State Democratic Party Reber had considerable experience.

He is senior accountant with Miller Dixon Drake, PC and has held numerous positions in the Dauphin County Democratic Party, PA Young Democrats, PA Democratic State Committee, Harrisburg City Audit Committee, Capitol Region Stonewall Democrats. He is the currently elected tax collector of Millersburg Borough and former board chair of Planned Parenthood Keystone.

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Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

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- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

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You think you're angry?

It's common knowledge that our country has become more divided than any of us living can remember. This article isn't about who's right and who's wrong. It's about what people are feeling.

When I was working toward one of my doctorates a required reading was A Course in Miracles. I read a line in the book that said something to the effect that we are never really angry about what think we are. That stopped me. That's a thought that takes some time to chew on.

The very same thing happened during my graduate work. In a class on emotions and feelings I learned that when we can get past the anger we often reach sadness. Remember a time when you were extremely angry. Once you calmed down, did you find yourself reduced to tears, perhaps right in front of the person who ticked you off. God, I hate that when it happens!

Usually we get over it, but at other times we may find that sadness is not the final layer of our emotions. The real emotional experience we're having is fear.

Fear, when appropriate, is a good thing. It stops us from getting too close to a high cliff or remembering to turn off the iron before we leave the house.

In less than two years we've seen programs to help those in need cut, environmental disasters, and the elimination of civil rights protections.

At other times, however, fear can be debilitating to such an extent that we become paralyzed. If we are fearful of something that may happen to us if we go outside, we might not leave the house. If we are afraid we'll be dumped, we might not be willing to date, even if we really want a relationship.

The anger that we see in today's world, and in particular the United States, overlays many justifiable fears. In less than two years we've seen programs to help those in need cut, environmental disasters, and the elimination of civil rights protections. These examples, and many more, were predicted by countless people. But do you know what the response was from the majority?

Anger. That's fine, except that's where many of us stayed and continue to live today. It is, if you'll allow me, "Anger Without Representation." Sure, we share the posts, we comment on social media about how outraged we are, and we allow ourselves to be paralyzed by real and supposed fears. It's as if we have developed a group anticipatory fear (a feeling of

Making Sense of Life



By Dr.
Terry Drew
Karanen

being afraid about what we think will happen, even if those thoughts have no basis in reality) about most things in our lives on which we've counted on or fought hard to achieve.

Instead of shares being a call-to-action they have too often been merely fuel for the fire. Too many postings announce and justify our outrage yet leave little to offer as a next step. And that is what needs to come out of the anger. Not more anger. More action.

In the past five years my community and I have been working in the area of spiritual social action in ways that the religious or clerical communities have been silent in the past. We all need to know how important every email of protest, every last signature on petition, every phone call, and every vote means to see that we return to a greater experience of being "the home of the free."

We must be aware of what's going on not only abroad and nationally, but what is happening right here in the Commonwealth and in particular, south central Pennsylvania. We need to ask ourselves if that brunch is really as important as the rally taking place the same day. We can be more willing to be the people we want to be around: compassionate, empathetic, helpful, and loving. Bottom line: We need to give a damn.

Fortunately, many people in our community are doing many of these things, or some of these things, or even more than these things. If you are not this is not a scolding. It's a wakeup call that will affect whatever area of your life that makes you angry. We need you ... now. The reward for that is you'll find yourself less angry and less fearful of the future. Why? Because you're taking action and that means you have empowered yourself to go from victim to victor.

Terry is an award-winning author, speaker, licensed social worker and flight attendant. Read his weekly blog at Central Voice online or on his website at: blog.terrydrewkaranen.com. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).

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LGBT-owned businesses are driving the economy

According to the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, there are an estimated 1.4 million LGBT-owned businesses across the United States operating in a wide variety of industries, including consulting, marketing, construction, legal services, and defense contracting. These businesses contribute more than \$1.7 trillion to America's economy.

Since 2004, the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) has been providing LGBT certification to businesses that are at least 51% LGBT-owned, managed or operated. These LGBT-certified companies report an average of \$2.5 million in annual revenues. By comparison, a 2017 report by the National Small Business Association found that less than 40 percent of small businesses reported revenues greater than \$1 million.

U.S. Representatives Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., and Mark Pocan, D-Wis., have introduced a bipartisan resolution recognizing the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) entrepreneurs and small business owners to our nation's economy.

"LGBT entrepreneurs and small

business owners are the backbone of so many communities across our nation," said Ros-Lehtinen, a member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. "Stephanie, Mark, and I are proud to recognize the contributions of these individuals who are job creators and move our economy forward. Our country is strengthened when every profession reflects our national character."

"We are so pleased that this resolution affirms what we have observed at NGLCC since our founding nearly twenty years ago: that America's LGBT business owners are driving our economy ever upward and deserve every opportunity to keep creating jobs and innovating our industries that benefit all Americans," said National LGBT Chamber of Commerce Co-Founder & President Justin Nelson and Co-Founder and CEO Chance Mitchell in a joint statement. "The estimated 1.4 million LGBT business owners NGLCC advocates for and certifies as LGBT Business Enterprises have truly earned a place at the table of opportunity in both the public and private sectors. We thank Representatives Stephanie Murphy, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Mark Pocan for their leadership, and to all Members of Congress who believe in a fully inclusive economy that celebrates the diversity of America."

KNOW YOUR STATUS?



Hamilton Health Center focused on National HIV Testing Day June 27 in the Highmark Community Room.

Centers for Disease Control data indicates for 2016 (latest year available)–

African Americans account for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses, those living with HIV, and those who have ever received an AIDS diagnosis, compared to other races/ethnicities.

In 2016, African Americans accounted for 44% of HIV diagnoses, though they comprise 12% of the U.S.

population.

More than half (58%, 10,223) of African Americans who received an HIV diagnosis were gay or bisexual men.

17,528 African Americans received an HIV diagnosis in the United States (12,890 men and 4,560 women).

Among African American gay and bisexual men who received an HIV diagnosis, 39% (3,993) were young men aged 25 to 34.

Forty-seven percent (8,501) of those who received an AIDS diagnosis in the United States were African American.



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PRIDE FESTS ACROSS THE MID-STATE

more photos @ TheCentralVoice.com

HARRISBURG PRIDE

July 28th



Central PA Pride Festival executive leadership, dubbed the "Fab 4" after their harrowing last-minute scramble to find a new venue due to flooding on Harrisburg's riverfront, is Brad Martin (left), President; center foreground is Nicholas Duncan, Vice President of Entertainment; center rear is Adam Hagerty, Vice President of Operations; and far right is Andrew Campbell, Executive Vice President.

FACEBOOK PHOTO

See Publisher's Note (pg. 4) for the story.



LANCASTER PRIDE

June 23rd



Lancaster Pride drew thousands out to Conestoga Street in downtown Lancaster June 23. “We’re not going anywhere but our fight for basic civil rights isn’t over,” one participant told The Central Voice.



YORK EQUALITY FEST August 5th

Several hundred people moved through York’s Penn Park for the 5th Annual Equality Fest Sun., Aug. 5.

With mid-term elections coming and challenges to LGBT civil rights from religious groups, the event drew both candidates running for local office and religious congregations that are “welcoming” to the community.

This year organizers held smaller events the week before Sunday’s main event.

Equality Fest started as a day long, family

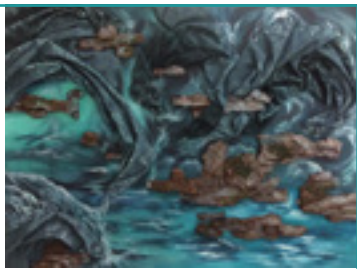
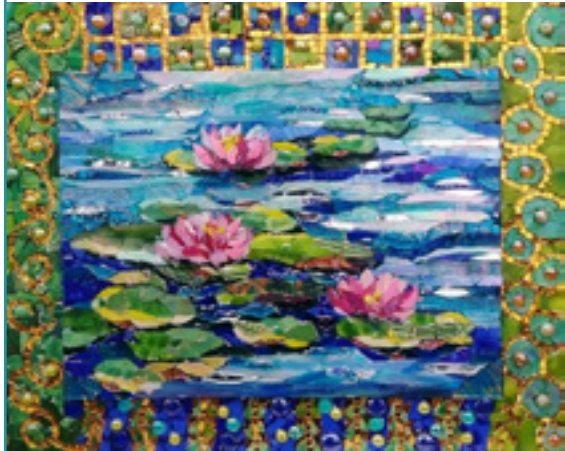
Please see **YORK**, page 19





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Upcoming Events



September 9th-October 11th,
11 am-6 pm:

"Pastiche II" Fall Membership Exhibition

- Opens on Gallery Walk Day
- Music By Hemlock Hollow
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"2 Shows In 1" Invitational Exhibition

- Opening Reception Fri., Oct. 19th,
5-8 pm
- Music by Tom & Laurie Reese



Visit www.artassocofhbg.com for more information & reservations



Ain't my first rodeo

With rodeo fans from 16 states and Quebec, several hundred people gathered June 22-24 in the Capitol Region for the 2nd Annual Keystone State Charity Rodeo. Adam Romanik (left), president and founder of the Keystone State Gay Rodeo Association, started riding at the age of four. He was barrel racing by the age of six. "This event is brings together rodeo fans from all walks of life," Romanik tells *The Central Voice*. More photos @ thecentralvoice.com



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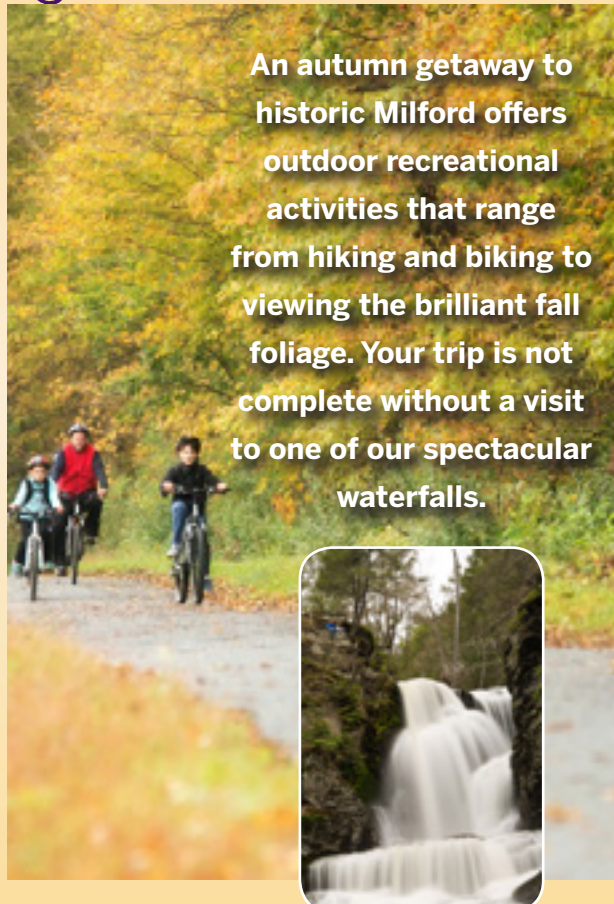
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- **Travel & Leisure**

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- **USA Today**

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“When you decide not to be afraid, you can find friends in super unexpected places,” says Ms. Marvel. She has summarized the experience of legions of LGBT people. Local superhero expert Nicholas Duncan teamed up with artist and *The Central Voice* cartoonist Brad Gebhart to create a collage of LGBT Superheroes.

Lesbian

BATWOMAN (aka Katherine Kane) - Created by writer “Edmond Hamilton” and first appeared in DC Comics beginning with *Detective Comics* #233 (1956). During the multiverse catastrophe series in 1985, *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, removed Batwoman’s existence. She was successfully reintroduced in 2006 as Kate Kane by Geoff Johns with being of Jewish descent and a proud lesbian in an effort to diversify DC continuity.

THUNDER (aka Anissa Pierce) - Created by Judd Winick and Tom Raney and first appeared in *Outsiders* #1, August 2003. Anissa is the daughter of Jefferson Pierce, the hero known as Black Lightning. She formed a relationship with Grace, whom still lives together.

Gay

NORTHSTAR (aka Jean-Paul Beaubier) - Created by Chris Claremont and John Byrne, the character first appeared in *X-Men* #120

(April 1979) as a member of the fictional Canadian superhero team, Alpha Flight. During a battle, Northstar revealed as gay, adopts baby girl with AIDS in *Alpha Flight* #106 (March 1992). Northstar would again make headlines in 2012 when he took part in the first gay wedding at Marvel in *Astonishing X-Men* #51.

BUNKER (aka Miguel Jose Barragan) - A meta-human born in the village of El Chilar, Mexico. Published by DC Comics, He first appeared in *Teen Titans* vol. 4, #1, and was created by Scott Lobdell and Brett Booth. As a gay superhero during the “New 52” run, Bunker has now seemingly disappeared in the current DC Rebirth, along with other known out LGBT characters.

Bisexual

PSYLOCKE (aka Elizabeth “Betsy” Braddock) - Created by Chris Claremont and Herb Trimpe, the character first appeared in *Captain Britain* Vol. 1, #8 (1976) commonly in association with the X-Men. Throughout the years, the origin and evolution of Psylocke’s character has been a roller-coaster with her death(s) and resurrection(s). In 2013, the *Uncanny X-Force*, issue #8 (created by Sam Humphries and Adrian Alphona), was a skit with Psylocke and Cluster having fun. The taboo of bisexuality was introduced to Psylocke’s character, which confused many and encouraged support to other readers.

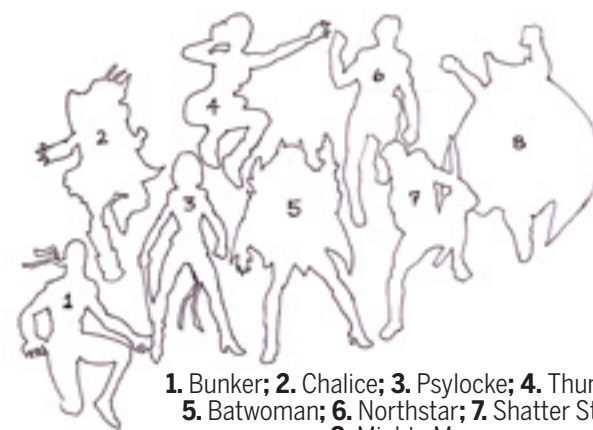
SHATTERSTAR (aka Gaveedra Seven) - The asexual product of bio-engineering on

an otherdimensional world, who was at one point merged with an Earth mutant named Benjamin Russell. Shatterstar and Rictor first shared a passionate kiss in *X-Factor* #45 (2005) and then later confirmed as him being bisexual.

Shatterstar is known to have served in the unsanctioned mutant group X-Force, and has been involved in numerous superhuman conflicts. During Civil War, Shatterstar briefly rejoined X-Force, and helped in the assault in the X-Mansion, to free the 198 from the grounds. In the *X-Factor* (2007-2013), Shatterstar joined X-Factor Investigations and got his motion picture debut on the *Deadpool 2* movie.

Transgender

CHALICE (aka Charlie Young) - In “Alters”, published by Aftershock Comics, Paul Jenkins, Leila Leiz and an outreaching diversity team comes a groundbreaking first-ever superhero series with a central transgender protagonist. Chalice is also Charlie Young, a male college student, who, unbeknown to his family, is beginning to transition to female. Unlike most superheroes, who have to maintain one secret identity, Chalice



1. Bunker; 2. Chalice; 3. Psylocke; 4. Thunder; 5. Batwoman; 6. Northstar; 7. Shatter Star; 8. Mighty Man

has two. Although there have been other minor “transgender” characters in past comics, Chalice is the first lead hero to fully embrace gender identity.

MIGHTY MAN - Created by Erik Larsen. Mighty Man first appeared in *The Savage Dragon* #3 (1992) of Image Comics as an ancient entity created by a mysterious wizard named Fon~Ti to fight evil. The entity is passed from host to host at the point of death. The host, regardless of his or her sex, is able to transform into a tall, handsome blonde man with god-like powers. In “one-shot issue, *Mighty Man* #1 (2017), seven-year-old Betty Bradford has inherited the mantle of the World’s Mightiest Man!

References: www.dccomics.com, www.marvel.com, www.aftershockcomics.com, www.imagecomics.com



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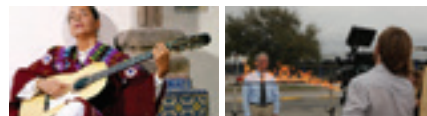
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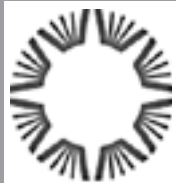


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Ease into autumn with these non-fiction library picks

Dauphin
County
Library
Book Reviews



By Yvonne
Carmichael

Our focus is about titles found at The Library that help to better connect with those in our community, whether it be family, friends or acquaintances. These six titles are here for you at The Library. Remember, the Dauphin County Library System is a great place to start your journey for great reading.

Becoming an Ally to the Gender-Expansive Child: A Guide For Parents and Carers

by Anna Bianchi



For anyone eager to understand their child's gender experience, or to learn how best to accept, support and protect them, this book will provide knowledge, reassurance and the confidence to do so.—(Provided by publisher)

The Ultimate Guide for Gay Dads: Everything You Need to Know About LGBTQ Parenting But Are (Mostly) Afraid to Ask

by Eric Rosswood



Bestselling author Eric Rosswood covers every aspect of fatherhood for gay men in this essential guide to growing your family in the post-DOMA era. . Unlike other parenting books, this covers topics like how to find LGBT friendly pediatricians, how to find LGBT friendly schools, how to childproof your home with style, how to answer awkward and prying questions about your family from strangers, examples for what two-dad families can do on Mother's Day, and much more. The book also includes parenting tips and advice from pediatricians, school educators, lawyers, and other same-sex parents.—(Adapted from the publisher)

A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples

by Frederick Hertz and Emily Daskow

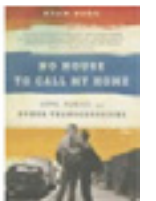


This edition provides the latest on same-sex marriage and parentage laws. "This plain-English guide shows you how to: have and raise children through adoption, donors, surrogacy, or foster parenting; jointly buy a house or other property; make decisions about living together, marrying, or registering as legal partners; make a will or living trust; make medical decisions for each other if needed; and deal with the end of a relationship. (From the Publisher)

No House To Call My Home: Love, Family, and Other Transgressions

by Ryan Berg

Underemployed and directionless,



Ryan Berg took a job in a group home for disowned and homeless LGBTQ teenagers. His job was to help these teens discover their self worth, get them back on their feet, earn high school degrees, and find jobs. But he had no idea how difficult it would be.—(Provided by publisher)

Understanding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

by Robert Rodi and Laura Ross



Geared for teens, it discusses different sexual orientations and gender identities while tracing the nature versus nurture debate over same-sex attraction and gender identity. (Adapted from the Publisher)

The ABC's of LGBT

by Ashley Mardell



We live in a post-binary world where gender fluency, awareness and acceptance of how people identify is essential. Ashley Mardell, a trusted voice on YouTube, looks at all things LGBT+. Mardell's book, filled with in-depth definitions and personal anecdotes, is proof it does get better every day in a world where people are empowered by information and understanding. As Mardell says, 'Learning about new identities broadens our understanding of humanity, heightens our empathy, and allows us different, valuable perspectives.' Whether you are a questioning teen, a teacher or parent looking for advice or anyone wanting to learn the language of respect, this book is an essential guide for you.—(Provided by publisher)

Rolling back our rights

August 5th marked the end of the major Pride Celebrations in the Susquehanna Valley and TransCentralPA proudly participated in Lancaster, Harrisburg and finally York.

The Central PA Pride event in Harrisburg will be fondly remembered for some time to come. The rising floodwaters of the Susquehanna River rendered Riverfront Park uninhabitable, and Governor Tom Wolf, along with State Representatives Patty Kim, and Brian Sims demonstrated once again, their commitment to the LGBT community and the alternate location of Soldier's Grove on the Capitol's East Side was made available. Thank you Governor Wolf, once again, you came through for us.

Congratulations to Brad Martin and his staff of happy but overtired assistants and volunteers, for shifting into high gear and making the transition to a new venue seem uneventful. What a beautiful venue with the tree-lined walkways, the Capitol Dome and Fountain as a backdrop on one end and the view of the East State Street Bridge on the other. It has to be the most photogenic location anywhere for a Pride event.

However, for me, the Pride events and Equality Fest have a hollow ring, because in my mind we are no closer to LGBT Equality in the Commonwealth than we ever were and thanks to the GOP Administration in Washington, many of our hard-earned rights have been rolled back.

Oh sure, the SOTUS ruled in favor of marriage equality, but in over half the states and here in Pennsylvania, you can get married on Saturday to your same sex spouse, but if you put your picture on your desk Monday morning you might be fired by the end of the work day.

I have two very dear married female friends who have been together for many years and they have yet to put a wedding picture on their respective desks because they fear the repercussions. Does that sound like equality to you, because it does not sound like it to me?

I have friends within TransCentralPA that are struggling to get by, some because they were terminated from employment once they tried to live authentically. I have several other friends in addition that are working in menial service jobs. They have college degrees, and should

Trans
Central
PA Topics



By Joanne
Carroll

be working in higher paid technical and administrative positions. They are underemployed and only by living with a number of other trans-females in order to curb expenses are they able to survive, and barely at that.

We were never a single-issue community because marriage equality was only ever just one of the freedoms we needed. We do not have equal rights, and we all have a stake in this fight to end discrimination based on sexual preference, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.

So what are you going to do about it?

One thing you can do right away is sending a letter to your senator or representative or even better, stop by his or her office. However, you can become a storyteller, because people can be given the statistics, they can hear all the arguments about why it is the right thing to do; but hearing about the pain and misery that we and many of our brothers and sisters are experiencing will make all the difference.

So tell yours or someone else's story, and keep telling it, register to vote, and vote for the candidates that have our back...incidentally, they are all Democrats.

Joanne Carroll is the current President of TransCentral PA. TransCentral PA is committed to providing advocacy and caring support for transgender individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies.

YORK: Equality Fest from page 13

ily friendly, community, arts & cultural celebration held in Downtown York City. For 2018 it evolved into a full week of dynamic events celebrating diversity across York County.

Inspired by the May 20, 2014 historic passage of marriage equality, the festival's organizers encourage full inclusion of all York citizens in all aspects of civic life. According to the group's web site, "We join forces annually with several like-minded organizations, faith communities, retailers, artists, politicians, and committed citizens to produce (as

of 2018) a full week that fosters connections, awareness and activism within the beautifully diverse citizenship of south central PA.

"The festival honors multiple marginalized communities and showcase the beautiful contributions of LGBTQIA+ individuals, women, immigrants, students and young people, seniors, the differently-abled, and others to highlight that the York community strives for opportunity, safety and hope for ALL of York's people!"

State urges small diverse businesses to apply to Mentor-Protégé program

"We have a responsibility to ensure that opportunities to compete for state contracting is diverse, inclusive, and fair. We have taken an aggressive and innovative approach to achieving that goal, and the Mentor-Protégé Program is another resource that we can now point to in those efforts."

-GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

As part of his commitment to level the playing field for small and diverse businesses, Governor Tom Wolf announced on March 14 the launch of the Commonwealth's Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP) for Small Diverse Businesses.

The program pairs successful prime contractors with small diverse businesses (SDBs) to better develop their technical and administrative capabilities to compete for state government contracting opportunities.

Small diverse businesses are those owned by minorities, women, LGBT, veterans and people with disabilities.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that opportunities to compete for state contracting is diverse, inclusive, and fair," Governor Wolf said. "We have taken an aggressive and innovative approach to achieving that goal, and the Mentor-Protégé Program is another resource that we can now point to in those efforts."

In September 2015, Wolf signed an executive order solidifying the administration's commitment to improving the participation of small and small diverse businesses in state government contracting and the commonwealth's overall economy. The order also created an Advisory Council whose recommendations included commissioning the first ever statewide Commonwealth Disparity Study and establishing a mentor-protégé program.

The MPP will be run through the Department of General Services Bureau of Diversity Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO), pairing prime contractors and/or suppliers with DGS-verified SDBs to provide developmental assistance and help them successfully solicit and perform on commonwealth supplies and services procurement contracts and non-highway capital construction projects.

The mentor and protégé enter into an agreement ranging from 6 months to 2 years that defines the relationship and any developmental goals identified by the participants.

"This 'first-of-its-kind' program is an excellent example of how we all play a role in improving and increasing the chances for small diverse businesses to successfully compete for, and obtain, state contracts," Topper said. "As we continue to enhance our efforts to make State government contracting more appealing and accessible to small diverse businesses, the value of a program like this cannot be overstated."

The details

To participate in the MPP, both mentor and protégé firms must be registered suppliers in good standing with the commonwealth and be willing to adhere to and sign the MPP Agreement. In addition, mentors must have served in a prime contractor role on a contract worth \$300,00 or more in the past three years, while protégé firms must be a DGS-verified SDB and attend a DISBO training workshop and a solicitation event.

The pilot program will consist of four mentors and five protégés who will enter into a year-long agreement with a six-month review. Based on the results, adjustments will be made to the program before opening it up to more businesses.

"These mentor businesses are to be commended for walking the talk when it comes to doing their part to make our Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities efforts a success," Topper said. "And for the protégés, the chance to gain insight and knowledge from state contractors who know the lay of the land will allow them to become more proficient with process and hopefully pay it forward in the future."

Businesses being sought

The Mentor-Protégé pairings for the pilot program are as follows:

- Highmark Health of Pittsburgh will mentor All-Purpose Cleaning Services, Inc and Bender Consulting Services, Inc. both of Pittsburgh
- Momentum, Inc. of Camp Hill will mentor Eastern Business Software, Inc. of Broomall
- Unisys Corporation of Harrisburg will mentor LingaTech, Inc. of Camp Hill
- PAP Technologies, Inc. of Lancaster will mentor Apparel, Print and Promotions, Inc. of Harrisburg.

The Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities, or BDISBO, implements programs to increase contracting opportunities for DGS self-certified small business and third-party verified small diverse businesses; provides training, technical assistance and support for small and small diverse business owners to compete for prime and sub-contracting opportunities; and is also responsible for ensuring contractual commitments are maintained through contract compliance activities.

More information or assistance on BDISBO programs is available at the bureau's website.



Human Rights Campaign press secretary Sarah McBride, center, addressed 73 people July 17 in Harrisburg. McBride, Kira Kinsman, Equality PA treasurer, left, and Allison VanKuiken, HRC PA state coordinator, are part of HRC Rising.

THE CENTRAL VOICE PHOTO

Human Rights Campaign prioritizes Pennsylvania for 2018 election

By Central Voice

"We've prioritized Pennsylvania," Human Rights Campaign press secretary Sarah McBride, center, told 73 people July 17 in Harrisburg. McBride, Kira Kinsman, Equality PA treasurer, left, and Allison VanKuiken, HRC community organizer, are part of HRC Rising, a campaign launched last

July that hopes to fight "the politics of hate, anti-LGBT legislation, and fuel pro-equality candidates and initiatives in 2018, 2020 and beyond" VanKuiken tells *The Central Voice*.

As the earliest and largest grassroots deployment in HRC's 38-year history, the national organization prioritized several crucial battleground states, including Pennsylvania.



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SCOTT: Questionnaire response from page 5

crimination legislation in order to ensure its passage. However, we cannot simply change laws: we must change hearts, and we must change minds. My faith teaches me that all people are created equal and are worthy of love and respect. Whether during a committee hearing or while attending a grassroots event, I will work to combat discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community by vigorously advocating on their behalf in both public and private.

(4) *Would you support a move to separate the employment, housing and public accommodations protections into separate bills if you knew that one or more of those protections would not become law? For example, a bill to prohibit discrimination in employment would be signed into law while housing and public accommodation discrimination would not be prohibited.*

I support non-discrimination protections in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations because I unequivocally support full legal and social equality for all members of the LGBTQ community. I would not want to see these protections separated into separate bills if a bill that contained all of them had enough support to become law.

(5) *In light of recent court cases affecting the LGBTQ community, and in particular, the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which revolves around a bakery that refused to sell a custom wedding cake to a same-sex couple. The bakery's owner, Jack Phillips, seeks an exemption from Colorado's civil-rights law, which prohibits public businesses from discriminating based on sexual orientation. He argues that this is a narrow case about whether the government can "compel artists to create expression that violates their sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage."*

The court will rule on this case this spring. Why will the ruling be important to you and how will you advocate on behalf of the LGBTQ community in light of this case?

This ruling is important because of the precedent it will set, and the environment it will create in regards to discrimination. Simply put, a ruling that favors the cakeshop will justify discrimination wrapped in a religious cloak. As a pastor who supports the rights of all people, I recognize that such a ruling would not only harm the LGBTQ community, but it would also damage the movement of faith commu-

nities towards recognizing the intrinsic value of all human life, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

I will lend my voice to the public debate, pointing out that discrimination of this type is simply a modern-day extension of the same prejudices that the civil rights movement overcame in the 1960s. Furthermore, in the event that the Supreme Court rules against the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, I would support legislation to create the necessary civil rights protections at the federal level.

(6) *The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) conducted a survey that found that 82% of LGBTQ students had a problem with bullying about sexual orientation and 64% felt unsafe at school due to bullying about their sexual orientation. As a result of bullying, LGBTQ youth miss more than five times as much school as other students. Nearly 30% of LGBTQ youth drop out of school as a result of bullying. LGBTQ youth are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than other youth. Given the significant presence of bullying within the LGBTQ community, what concrete steps would you suggest that could reduce the number of bullying incidents among the LGBTQ community?*

In my view, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) should interpret Title IX in a manner that extends non-discrimination protections to members of the LGBTQ community in all educational institutions that receive federal funds. While the OCR issued guidelines to this effect during the Obama administration, the Trump administration rescinded those guidelines in 2017. Accordingly, I support passing legislation in order to add language to Title IX that explicitly extends non-discrimination protections to include discrimination that occurs on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. This would legally obligate educational institutions that receive federal funding to investigate and remedy instances of bullying and harassment against members of the LGBTQ community.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This story is intended as information only and is not an endorsement. It is published as a service to readers who live within Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District. Central Voice's coverage area is Dauphin, Cumberland, York, and Lancaster counties.*

Truth, Lies, BS and the presidency

"It's all bullshit and it's bad for you." That's George Carlin—may he be resting in peace—in one of his last and best routines. He wanted us to know that much of what we're told by our governmental and religious leaders is not true, but rather a mixture of lies and BS.

Is the United States the greatest country in the world? Is our capitalist system a wonderful thing? When people die do they go to heaven and meet their mom, dad and grandparents to enjoy one another in eternal bliss? It's bullshit, and it's bad for you, Carlin says.

During the British Petroleum (BP) massive oil spill in 2010 the company put out reams of information in an effort to reassure us that all was well. *The Onion* responded with a story under the headline, "Massive flow of bullshit continues to gush from BP headquarters." This helped keep things in perspective.

Was BP lying? Yes and no. There were lies, sure, but much of their information was simply BS. They said whatever they thought could reassure us, which included some truth, some half-truths and some outright lies.

Now, speaking of BS, I think it's safe to say that President Donald Trump is a master of BS. He may be Commander-in-Chief, but we can also call him Bullshitter-in-Chief. He is so good at it that his Twitter and campaign rhetoric has led to a resurgence of BS across the country—and not just from him, but also from his administration officials, his supporters and many religious leaders. This is not a good thing for the U.S.

But what is BS, anyway? Is it simply another term for lying? Not according to Harry G. Frankfurt in his wonderful little book *On Bullshit* (2005). Frankfurt, a professor emeritus who taught moral philosophy at Princeton, wrote a concise 67 pages in an attempt to define a word he maintains is not really understood, as it is used so often in so many different ways.

Frankfurt may be a scholar, but he echoes George Carlin on the first page of his book. "One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit," Frankfurt writes. "Everyone knows this. Each of us contributes his share. But we tend to take the situation for granted."

He continues, noting that "most people are rather confident of their ability to recognize bullshit and to avoid being taken in by it." As a result, he writes, we have no understanding of what it is or how it functions.

Ally
in the
Academy



By Trum
Simmons

Frankfurt explains that BS is something other than a lie. Lies are falsehoods, whereas BS is "a matter not of falsity but of fakery. ... Although it is produced without concern with the truth ... the essence of bullshit is not that it is false but that it is phony."

In addition, the bullshitter "misrepresents what he is up to," Frankfurt writes. The bullshitter just wants to get away with what he says. But perhaps my favorite Frankfurt quote is this: "Bullshitting is less a matter of craft than of art. Hence the familiar notion of the bullshit artist." Lying, on the other hand, is more of a craft than an art.

In Trump's rhetoric we see a man who excels in salesmanship. And what he's selling is Donald Trump. He wants you to buy his product, his brand. Is he really concerned about "Making America Great Again"? Does he really care about working men and women? We already know he doesn't support LGBTQ rights, people of color or immigrants, so we don't need to question that.

Nope—he just wants you to buy his brand and make Donald Trump greater than ever. You know he's already great—he tells us that all the time.

Millions of people have bought Trump's brand of bullshit and are busy spreading it far and wide. Thankfully, many more millions can see it for what it is. Other millions don't know what to think. Again, this is not good for our country.

As Frankfurt says, each of us contributes our share of bullshit. And I believe those who advocate for social, racial, environmental and economic justice also need to be careful of this phenomenon. There is too much BS coming from those who are against equality for all, and we need to make sure we don't add to the pile.

After all, we all have been acculturated to American bullshit and, as George Carlin said—no matter who you are—it's all bad for you.

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RUGBY:

Blood, sweat & tears

from page 1

sexually driven.”

Making sexuality a non factor “is one thing that makes straight players and LGBT players so comfortable together,” Stryker says.

Rough sport?

“People often think its to rough a sport because we do not wear any type of padding,” Greco explains. Besides the physical part, rugby “teaches me the facts of life,” Greco explains. For example, “you learn to trust that your team is going to go to battle for you on and off the pitch,” she says. “You believe in your teammates. Have faith that your team is going to give their all”.

The only physical downside for Hunsberger is that “sometimes there can be serious injuries. However, that comes with the territory.”

Worst-Best

“My worse experience has been lacking new recruits. We’re always looking for new players at any skill level. We are willing to teach,” Greco says.

Making sexuality a non factor “is one thing that makes straight players and LGBT players so comfortable together,”

-Becky Stryker

shoulders numerous times, cleated hand, and a concussion leaving me out of play for days to weeks). But what’s even worse for her is “when a season comes to an end.” Inslee’s best moments include relationships made within the rugby community. “I’ve met and played with people from all around the world. It’s been a connection between people, places, and things,” she says.

Her worst experience, as time passes, is seeing “people’s lives becoming more involved with work, family, and all the stressors that life brings about. I understand that sacrifices have to be made in life and there are other commitments that must come before rugby.”

Stryker’s best experience has been “making new friends, and forming close bonds with great people that I otherwise would have never met.” Her worst is when she’s “injured and not able to play”.

The best thing that has happened to Hunsberger - she met her husband. “He played for the York Lancaster Roses and I played for the Thorns. After a few beers and tackles I fell in love. It is wonderful to have found someone who shares the same love for rugby as I do.”

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